

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 03931 160921Z

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ACTION EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7734

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, JA, OEXC

SUBJ: AFL-CIO - DOMEI TALKS

REFS: (A) TOKYO 2768, (B) STATE 55242

1. DOMEI INTERNATIONAL BUREAU STAFFER SHOWED LABATT MARCH 15 COPY OF DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT WHICH DOMEI WILL PROPOSE TO AFL-CIO DELEGATION NEXT WEEK.

2. DRAFT REFERS TO GROWING "THREAT OF COMMUNISM" IN ASIA AS RESULT OF "CHANGES" IN INDOCHINA, SERIOUS SITUATION NOW FACED BY ASIAN TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS AND COMMITMENT OF BOTH AFL-CIO AND DOMEI TO INCREASE THEIR ASSISTANCE TO ASIAN TRADE UNIONS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SELF-HELP EFFORTS OF THESE UNIONS AND ON BASIS OF AGREEMENT WITH THEM. DRAFT "DEPLORES DISTORTION FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES" OF ORIGINAL CHARACTER OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UNESCO AND ILO AND CALLS FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO CORRECT DISTORTIONS. DRAFT NOTES HUGE PROFITS BEING MADE BY UNREGULATED MULTI-NATIONALS AND CALLS FOR IMPOSITION INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS OF THEM. DRAFT CONTAINS STATEMENT OF AFL-CIO SUPPORT FOR DOMEI CAMPAIGN IN FAVOR OF RESTORATION TO JAPAN OF SOVIET OCCUPIED NORTHERN TERRITORIES. FINALLY, DRAFT PROPOSES ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEE OF AFL-CIO - DOMEI JOINT COMMITTEE IN ORDER TO PERMIT FREQUENT CONSULTATIONS PRIOR TO NEXT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN WASHINGTON IN 1977.

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 03931 160921Z

3. DOMEI STAFFER SAID DOMEI PAID PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO LANGUAGE

ON ILO AND ON AID TO ASIAN TRADE UNIONS. DOMEI, WHILE PRIVATELY HOPING AFL-CIO WILL EVENTUALLY DECIDE TO REMAIN IN ILO, AGREES WITH AFL-CIO AND USG CRITICISMS OF IT AND HAS NO HESITATION IN SAYING SO PUBLICLY. DOMEI BELIEVES THAT NEW JOINT STATEMENT MUST CONTAIN SOME REFERENCE TO CONSULTATIONS WITH SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRADE UNIONS IN CONTEXT OF JOINT AFL-CIO - DOMEI AID PROGRAM IN ORDER TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF CRITICISMS EMANATING FROM SOME ARO MEMBERS AFTER ISSUANCE OF LAST MAY'S JOINT STATEMENT.

4. DOMEI STAFFER SAID THAT FINAL DRAFT JOINT STATEMENT DOES NOT REFLECT DOMEI CONCERNED ABOUT DIFFICULTIES SO FAR ENCOUNTERED IN ATTEMPTING TO SCHEDULE TRIPARTITE DOMEI-AAFLI-ARO CONSULTATIONS OVER JOINING WITH PROGRAMS TO ASIAN TRADE UNIONS. WHILE HAVING NO PROOF, DOMEI LEADERSHIP FEARS THAT ARO SECGEN MATHUR AND ICFTU TOKYO REP OCHIAI, RESPONDING TO PRESSURES FROM SOHYO, DELIBERATELY ATTEMPTING TO SLOW DOWN CONSULTATIONS IN ORDER TO PREVENT RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAM UNDER AFL-CIO AND DOMEI LEADERSHIP. (COMMENT: THERE POSSIBLY IS SOME JUSTIFICATION FOR THIS FEAR SINCE SOHYO ICFTU AFFILIATES ARE ATTEMPTING THEMSELVES TO DEVELOP CLOSER TIES WITH THEIR SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTERPARTS (REF: 75 TOKYO 16453) END COMMENT).

5. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO BRING ABOVE TO ATTENTION OF AFL-CIO DELEGATION PRIOR TO ITS DEPARTURE FOR JAPAN THIS WEEKEND.
HODGSON

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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